



## MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION (MBFTE) MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2018  
11:44 a.m. - 2:11 p.m.

445 Minnesota St. Ste 146  
St Paul, MN 55101  
Telephone: 651-201-7257 Fax: 651-215-0525  
[Fire-training.board@state.mn.us](mailto:Fire-training.board@state.mn.us)  
[www.mbfte.org](http://www.mbfte.org)

Board Member	PRESENT	ABSENT	TELECONFERENCE
Eric Hedtke - Assoc. of Townships	X		
Kelli Slavik - League of Cities		X	
Rick Loveland - MPFF		X	
Jonathan Kahnke - MSFDA	X		
Chip Lohmiller - MSFCA	X		
Roger Ihrke - League of Cities			X
Chris Ford - MPFF		X	
Greg Withers - Public Member	X		
Gary Stevens - MSFDA	X		
Mark Bergerson - MSFDA	X		
Jim Fisher - Assoc. of Townships	X		
Christine Patrick - MSFDA	X		
Becki White - MSFCA	X		
Natascha Hennen - MSFDA	X		
Bruce West - SFM - DPS	X		

Guests: Theresa Zikmund (MSFCB), Dave Schliek (MFSCB), Dean Wrobbel (MFSCB) and John Ehret (SFM FSS)  
Staff: Steve Flaherty (Executive Director MBFTE) and Margaret Koele (License Coordinator MBFTE)

### Meeting called to order at 11:44 a.m. by Mark Bergerson, Chair Approval of agenda & minutes

- Meeting agenda accepted as written
- November 2017 minutes approved as written

### Officer reports

- Chair, Mark Bergerson - In the last year we have made great progress on this board and it has improved the fire service in the last five years that I have been part of this board. Just a reminder that as we get to the committee reports, that those committees have already discussed and approved the items they are bringing forward for full board approval. That is the reason we have committees, is so the board does not have to go back and re-open everything the committees have discussed and researched to approve these items they are bringing forward.
- Vice Chair, Eric Hedtke - nothing to report
- Secretary, Chris Ford - not present at the meeting
- Treasurer, Becki White - balance and finances look all in order

- ◆ FSA Balance, Marshal West - reported the FSA balance as of the end of January was \$7788412.32. We should attain the \$13 million budget for FSA.

## Reports

- Executive Director - Steve Flaherty
  - ◆ Leadership course had 130 that have completed their course and we have 45 people on the waiting list for next fiscal year if the board proposes this in the budget.
  - ◆ NJPA funds are going well in region five with \$175,000 budgeted being an additional \$155 per firefighter.
  - ◆ 240 departments have been reimbursed to date.
  - ◆ NFPA1001 has about 329 students so far reimbursed through the program and we have 1000 seats budgeted for this year.
  - ◆ Live burns continue to do well in the budget with 40 on the waiting list for FY19 if the board proposes in the budget.
  - ◆ We have some requests for one time appropriation from the FSA (Fire Safety Account) that will be discussed later in the meeting.
  - ◆ Margaret Koele (License Coordinator) and Monica Correll (IT programmer) are working to design a new website to keep updated and more resourceful; we continue to get positive feedback on our website.
  - ◆ We will be having more discussion on the qualified instructor program later in the meeting.
  - ◆ Thank all the board members for the one on one meetings and would like to continue the communication going forward on an annual basis.
- Executive Committee - Mark Bergerson, Chair
  - ◆ We have changed the legislative part of this committee and handed over to the license committee to handle.
  - ◆ The committee met last week and have agreed on the proposals that will be coming before the board for final approval.
  - ◆ The meeting included MFSCB executive committee and will continue to discuss the future of our partnership with certification and licensing.
- Licensing/License Review Committee - Eric Hedtke, Vice Chair
  - ◆ We discussed the qualified instructor program, but will hold off for further discussion in the agenda.
  - ◆ There was discussion on having different classification of licensure and we had asked the representatives from MSFDA, MPFF and MSFCA to go back to their organizations to bring back feedback on this topic.
    - The feedback came back that Chip Lohmiller was there on behalf of MSFCA and indicated they were not interested in moving forward with classification, they only want the one license.
    - Christie Patrick was to go back to MSFDA and she was not present at that meeting, but she is here at the board meeting. Christie Patrick replied on behalf of the MSFDA, they are not in favor of classification of licensing. There are so many issues that would arise from doing this type of licensing and who gives the board the right to say firefighter A is better than or more qualified than firefighter B. We just want one classification of license, which is what we currently have.

- Eric Hedtke asked if Rick Loveland or Chris Parson were on the conference line as neither were at the license committee meeting with their organization representatives. The MPFF president Chris Parson and their attorney Brian Rice, which they indicated that they were in favor of classifications for full-time, part-time, POC, volunteer, officer, etc. Eric Hedtke indicated that we would have the discussion at the full board meeting before we decide on this type of movement forward in licensing.
  - Eric Hedtke asked if anyone on the board would like to take the position as the MPFF on going forward with classification of licensing.
  - With no response, Eric Hedtke replied then classification of licensing will not be discussed any further and how are we as a board going to handle this topic being brought up again by members of this board not present.
  - Marshal West replied, what is the benefit to the state for classification of licensing, except separation. You will end of with a class A, class B, class C system and who is going to make that determination. The Marshal office will not make these recommendations.
  - Eric Hedtke replied that he agreed this would just cause a division in the fire service.
  - Eric Hedtke commented that we, as a board, are all on the same page with this discussion and it is not a direction the board would like to go.
  - Eric Hedtke replied that he did tell Chris Parsons and Brian Rice that this topic would be discussed at the board meeting and if their representatives did not show up to the meeting their organization would not have any input into the boards decision.
  - ◆ The DNR will implement exemption of licensing within their own statutes.
  - ◆ The final discussion was an email we received from MPFF changing their position on carrying our revisions to the legislation. They said their two representatives on the board had concerns and did not support the items in which they had supported during all the meetings discussing these revisions. Neither representative were at the meeting, but the President of MPFF Chris Parsons and their attorney Brian Rice were present to discuss the revisions. We went over all their concerns and worked out some of the language. Brian Rice will be drafting a legislative bill and email to the license committee for approval before they move it forward to legislation.
- Training Committee - Mark Bergerson, Chair
  - ◆ FSA one-time funding draft proposal update:
    - FF1 & II w/certification for 500 students \$262,500
    - NFPA1001 addition of 200 seats w/certification \$320,000, this would help with our mission to get everyone trained to a set standard.
      - Christie Patrick commented that she had sat at the MBFTE booth at the Fire Officer School in Alexandria and we had a lot of fire department Chiefs and Officers coming up to our booth voicing they are extremely unhappy with our board removing the FFII certification from the NFPA1001 program. They would

like to see that put back in under that program next fiscal year.

- \$95 additional per firefighter reimbursement \$2,118,500, which would get us to the \$200 per firefighter that has been this boards goal.
- Cancer/mental health/wellness training collaboration with MNFIRE and other educational groups \$112,000 (\$7500/region)
  - Marshal West would like to go to \$10,000 per region (\$150,000)
  - The training committee would like this request to have a time limit and if they do not meet the time line, the funding goes to other regions that have requests for the training.
- DNR/MNICS Virtual Reality software (joint request with DNR) \$385,000
- Total request: \$3,236,000
- FSA training requests will all be coming through MBFTE training committee first for approval before they go before the FSAC. The presentations will be made to the FSAC by MBFTE based on the MBFTE recommendations.

**Natascha Hennen motioned to move forward with the one time appropriation requests for a total of \$3,236,000 from the FSA. Marshal West second the motion. Motion carried.**

- ◆ Qualified Instructor Process Draft - Mark Bergerson, Chair
  - Change (a) on the application breaking it out more clearly into three parts.
    - The board will want to know of how many reimbursements that may be turned down because they did not have a qualified instructor and from what departments.
    - The board would like the credentials bullet pointed out for clarity on the application.
    - The board would like the application to read, “Documented instructional hours”.
    - Eric Hedtke raised concerns if Steve Flaherty (Executive Director) reviews the applications and then denies one; we need to have an appeals process. When it comes to three professional references, what standards are we using if one might be good and another not. This is like licensing application process and needs a due process that we may need to check with the AG office on that process.
    - Mark Bergerson commented that the person providing the instruction should meet the minimum qualifications and met the criteria if the application of what they are qualified to teach. They do not just meet fitting under an umbrella, they need to be qualified to teach what they are applying to instruct.
    - Eric Hedtke would like to re-evaluate this program in two years to see how it is working.

Becki White motioned to move forward with the qualified instructor application process with the changes discussed today at the meeting. Jim Fisher second the motion. Marshal West commented that this could be brought back to the May meeting when we know if this has been put into legislation. Gary Withers tabled the motion with Gary Stevens second that motion. Motion Tabled.

- ◆ Learning Management System (online training) RFP
  - Steve Flaherty, Executive Director, has not put this RFP draft together yet, but will have it ready for the May meeting.
- Fire Service Specialist Report - John Ehret (FSS)
  - The FSS are talking with departments on MBFTE licensing and reimbursement programs
  - AFG grants, NFA courses
  - Developed a training for SFM LP props
  - Developing working relationships with the townships and league of cities
    - Marshal West would like to ask the MBFTE to collaborate with SFM for a fourth FSS position. The three are very busy around the state and could use the help. Mark Bergerson commented that the board had decided to revisit the position vacated by Kevin Sedivy at the two-year mark, which is upon us. Marshal West will bring to the May meeting the financial part of the employee cost to the board, as the SFM will cover the car and equipment costs. Mark Bergerson replied that the board would then need to discuss increasing the base budget at the August meeting.

#### Public comment

- No public comment

#### New business

- The Governor has not yet approved the appointments so the seats are still pending for Eric Hedtke, Christie Patrick and Kelli Slavik.
- Position Votes
  - Treasurer
    - Nomination for Becki White, second to that nomination from Natascha Hennen, Natascha Hennen called for a white ballot, Bruce West second, motion carried.
  - At large officer
    - Roger Ihrke nominated Greg Withers, Gary Stevens second, Natascha Hennen called for white ballot, Gary Stevens second, motion carried.
  - Chair
    - Gary Stevens called for white ballot on nomination for Mark Bergerson, Jim Fisher second, motion carried
- Marshal West and Steve Flaherty will be meeting with the MSFDA, MPFF and MSFCA organization this spring to go over the fire training study results. Eric Hedtke would like to be involved in that meeting when it takes place.
- Marshal West commented that FSA approved money that was left over from the recruitment retention program to the washer extractor program. MPFF has made the request to the FSAC for this program and SFM administers that program. This will be requested by MPFF again from FSAC for FY19.

- Mark Bergerson would like to address attendance at the meetings and get buy in from each of the organizations to have their representatives present for our meetings.

#### Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.